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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Kunming Chemical Works

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Kunming Chemical Works/Sodium Bicarbonate Production

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The plant was located on the outskirts of Kunming in the Ma-Kai-Tze section. The main item of production was sodium bicarbonate. In 1945-1946, production averaged only one ton/month. Maximum output, assuming a 24 hour work-day, would be about three tons/month. We produced sodium bicarbonate by processing sodium sulfate according to the Le Blanc process. Sodium sulfate was extracted from a mine about 100 miles from Kunming. During World War II the US Army was the principal consumer. In 1946, the chief consumers were Kunming soap manufacturers who picked up the material at the plant in their own trucks. Plant personnel consisted of approximately 40 workers and two or three professional engineers.

Sulfuric Acid Production

2. We sometimes produced small quantities of sulfuric acid by the Chamber process to use in the plant for miscellaneous uses such as laboratory testing. The plant was capable of producing approximately one ton/day.

Da Chen Enterprises

3. The Kunming Chemical Works were owned by the Da Chen Enterprises with headquarters in Kunming. Da Chen operated several other plants in the Kunming area including a flour plant. I have no other information on Da Chen.
4. There were several other industrial plants in the Ma-Kai-Tze section of Kunming, in addition to the Kunming Chemical Works. I recall an electrical power plant and a manufacturer of electric parts, but have no further details.

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